

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 110700 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7190

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PK

SUBJECT: UDF: KARACHI MEETING CANCELLED; PAGARO SUPPORTERS
ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD

REF: KARACHI 0740

1. FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL, WELL- ATTENDED UDF MEETING IN HYDERABAD AFTERNOON OF MAY 9 SECTION 144 WAS IMPOSED IN SIX DISTRICTS OF SIND-- SUKKUR, NAWABSHAH, SANGHER, THARPARKAR, HYDERABAD AND KARACHI-- FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS FROM MAY 9. MAY 10 UDF LEADERS, WHO HAD PRIOR PERMISSION FOR THEIR MAY 11 KARACHI MEETING, MET AT RESIDANCE OF SHAH AHMED NOORANI (JUP) FOLLOWING WHICH A DELEGATION OF FRONT PARTICIPANTS CALLED ON ACTING SIND CHIEF MINISTER SYED QAIM ALI SHAH TO QUESTION NECESSITY OF CANCELLING MAY 11 MEETING FOLLOWING IMPOSITION OF SECTION 144. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, DELEGATION WAS TOLD THAT REASON FOR IMPOSITION SECTION 144, WHICH PROHIBITED UDF MEETING, WAS AN " ADMINISTRATIVE SECRET". LATER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION AND ACTION COMMITTEE OF UDF MET AT PIR PAGARO'S HOUSE AND DECISION TAKEN TO CANCEL MEETING. IN EVENING ACTING CHIEF MINISTER ISSUED
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STATEMENT WARNING PEOPLE AGAINST ACTIVITIES OF UDF AND CRITICIZING UDF HYDERABAD MEETING SPEAKERS FOR USE OF UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE, PREACHING VIOLENCE, RIDICULING THE HEAD OF STATE AND MAKING OBJECTIONABLE SPEECHES. UDF SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CLOSED UDF CENTRAL COUNCIL WILL MEET IN LAHORE MAY 14 TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION.

2. MORNING OF MAY 10 SIX UDF SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING MNA CHAUDRI ZAHUR ELAHI, WERE ARRESTED FROM RESIDENCE WHERE PIR PAGARO STAYED IN HYDERABAD. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FIVE MORE ARRESTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE AND SIX ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO THE SUKKUR JAIL.

3. COMMENT: WIDESPREAD INVOCATION OF SECTION 144 IN PROVINCE COVERS MOSTLY LEFT BANK OF THE RIVER INDUS AREAS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL PART OF SUKKUR DISTRICT AND KARACHI DISTRICT. IN THESE LEFT BANK AREAS THERE ARE MANY HURS (FOLLOWERS OF PIR PAGARO) WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO RALLY AROUND FRONT ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR LOYALTY TO THE PIR. KARACHI BRITISH CONGEN OFFICER SAID HE CALLED ON SHERBAZ KHAN MAZARI LATE AFTERNOON MAY 10 AND WAS TOLD THAT MAZARI AND BIZENJO OPPOSED CANCELLATION OF MAY 11 MEETING, BUT THAT NOORANI OF JUP AND JAMAT- I- ISLAMI FIGURES SUPPORTED CANCELLATION. OF THE POSSIBLE 11 ARRESTED THUS FAR ALL EXCEPT PUNJAB MNA ELAHI BELIEVED TO BE PIR PAGARO FOLLOWERS. PIR PAGARO SCHEDULED HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON MAY 11 WHEN HIS INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO POINTED GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST HIM POLITICALLY AND PERSONALLY WILL BE SURFACED.
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